Protest against survey of Christians in Gujarat

4252. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government is carrying out a survey of Christians in the State;

(b) whether the All India Christian Council has protested against such move and claimed it a fit case of the Supreme Court to take *suo moto* action; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Gujarat High Court had restrained the State Government in 1998 from undertaking any such survey; and

(d) whether it is a fact that such community-wise area-specific surveys would turn into a potential tool for persecution of religious minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The State Government of Gujarat has informed that no survey or census of any particular community in the State has been ordered by them. The All India Christian Council has, however, expressed apprehensions about some routine and localised administrative enquiries being carried on by the State authorities. It also filed a Civil Application in the Gujarat High Court for quashing the action of the State Government. The State Government has informed that the Gujarat High Court has upheld the right of the Government authorities for collection of such information.

Government is committed to protect properties and lives of all the citizens including minorities irrespective of their caste, creed or religion.

Refusal by inmates to leave Tihar Jail

4253. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the contents of the news-item captioned, "Poor and Ailing: Leaving Tihar not an option for these inmates", which appeared in the media;

(b) whether it is a fact that over 300 of the jail's 12000 inmates have refused to leave the prison even when their prison sentence has ended;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and